# **Tennessee**

### A. STATE-AT-A-GLANCE

4		
1)	Program Operation	State Administered
2)	Number of Local Offices (excluding Agencies under Cooperative Agreements)	31
3)	Type of Agencies with Cooperative Agreements	Agreements with local District Attorneys, Juvenile Courts, private attorneys, and private contract agencies
4)	Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	URESA StateLegislation for UIFSA not passed
5)	Agreements With Tribal Entities	No
6)	Age of Majority for Termination of Support	18; unless child is still in high school; in such cases emancipation occurs when child graduates from high school or when class child is in when he/she reaches age of majority
7)	<b>Statutes of Limitation:</b>	
	• Collection of Past Due Support	10 years after date child support was last owed
	• Paternity Establishment	Up to one year after child reaches age of majority
	• Dormancy Revival/Renewal Possible [yes/no]	No
8)	Guidelines	Flat percentage of obligor's net income as defined by State rule
9)	Interest Rates on	
	Missed Payments	No
	• Retroactive Support	No
	Adjudicated Arrearage	No
10)	Arrearage Collections for Non- minor Child(ren)	Yes; all methods used to collect current support can be utilized to collect arrearages with exception of IRS Tax Offset Program
11)	Distribution Scheme	
	• AFDC Arrears	Amounts collected are treated first as payment on the required support obligation for the month in which the support is collected. Any amounts which are collected in excess of the required support obligation for the collection month shall be treated as amounts which represent support obligation for previous months. After the AFDC arrearage months obligations are satisfied, then any remaining amounts will be applied to the support obligations for

		previous Non-AFDC months.
	Non-AFDC Arrears	Refer to AFDC arrears
12)	Procedures Regarding Medical Support Using Income Withholding	Yes, if specific dollar amount is ordered
13)	New Hire Reporting	Policy being developed
14)	Recovery of Costs Elected Under State Plan	No
15)	Recovery of Costs for Initiating State	Not a cost recovery state; however, attempts are made to recover blood testing costs
16)	Long-Arm Statute/s Citation/s	YesTCA Code 20-2-214
17)	<b>Automated Locate Resources</b>	EPLN, DMV, Employment Security, IV-A, FPLS, Corrections
18)	<b>Enforcement Options</b>	
	• State Income Tax Refund Intercept	No
	• License Revocation/ Suspension	Introduced in Legislature 1996
	• Administrative Liens	No
	• Property Seizure & Sale	Yes
	• State Funds/Benefits (please specify)	No
	• Other (please specify)	Liens
19)	Spousal Maintenance Orders (specify yes or no)	
	• Establish	Not a IV-D function
	• Enforce	Only in conjunction with child support order
	• Modify	Not a IV-D function
20)	Current Spouse/Partner	Yes

Information Required	

### **B. UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT**

1)	<b>State Code Citation</b>	URESA State
2)	Effective Date	N/A
3)	Adopted Verbatim? If no, list differences.	N/A
4)	Repeal URESA?	N/A
5)	Repeal IWW?	N/A

# C. INCOME WITHHOLDING

1)	Income Withholding Terminology	Income withholding or income assignment
2)	Income Withholding Procedures	
	• State Withholding Limits	Percentage rate according to TN Guidelines
	• Fee Charged by Employers	Up to 50% of deducted amount not to exceed \$5.00 per month
	Date to Remit	Immediately, each payday
	• Penalty	TCA Code 26-2-2-1Liability for the amounts to be withheld. A judgment may be entered against employer
3)	Definition of Employer	Any person or organization having any person in employment, defined as personal services, including service in interstate commerce, performed for earnings or under any contract
4)	Included Income	Wages, salaries, commissions, pensions, annuities, and other income due or to be due
5)	Excluded Income	AFDC
6)	Direct Income Withholding for Unemployment Compensation, include address	TN is a URESA State and all interstate matters must be forwarded through the TN Central Registry
7)	Direct Income for Workers' Compensation, include address	TN is a URESA State and all interstate matters must be forwarded through the TN Central Registry

8)	Direct Income Withholding, other income sources subject to, include address	TN is a URESA State and all interstate matters must be forwarded through the TN Central Registry
9)	Direct Income Withholding, list Other Income Sources NOT subject to	N/A
10)	Federal Withholding (See Federal Pay Agents Section)	IV-D Directors need not answer this question.
11)	Procedures for Contesting Income Withholding	Yes
12)	Arrearages through Income Withholding	Yes
13)	Enforcing Against Non- Resident Obligor Asset/Income	Yes
14)	Exception to Immediate Withholding	No
15)	Multiple Obligations Withholding Priorities	
	• Policy	If the employer receives any income assignment for current support against an individual which would cause the deduction from any two or more assignments for current child support to exceed 50% of the individuals income after FICA, withholding taxes, and a health insurance premium which covers the child are deducted, the employer shall determine the total of all current child support ordered withheld by all income assignments against that individual. The employer will then calculate as a percentage of the total of all assignments for current child support, the amount of each income assignment ordered withheld.
	• Priority	Refer to Policy
	• Assistance	Refer to Policy
	• Allocation	Refer to Policy

# **D. PATERNITY**

1)	Interstate Paternity Procedures	Standard URESA procedures followed; if alleged father does not admit paternity, blood tests may be ordered
	<b>Consent Orders Obtained</b>	Yes
2)	Uniform Parentage Act	No

3)	<b>Uniform Act on Blood Testing</b>	No
4)	Parentage Order Available Without Order for Support	No
5)	Custody/Visitation Addressed Subject to Tribunal's Jurisdiction	No
6)	Genetic Test Results as Presumption of Paternity	Yes
	Threshold	99%
7)	Paternity Acknowledgment as Presumption of Paternity (Rebuttable/Conclusive)	Rebuttable
8)	Marriage as Presumption of Paternity	Yes
9)	Putative Father's Name on Birth Certificate, Effect of	Only if order of paternity established on IV-D cases, order is submitted to Vital Records Division of Dept. Of Health and Environment; new birth certificate is issued reflecting father's name; no charge for this service on IV-D cases
10)	Other Statutory Presumptions	Yes; rebuttable statutory presumption is established if tests show a probability of 95%
11)	Recognition of Common Law Marriage	N0; although common-law marriages are not recognized by TN, if common-law marriage is recognized in state in which it was contracted, it will be recognized in TN
12)	Personal Appearance of Witness or Custodial Parent Required	No
	Acceptable Methods of Testimony	Although, standard Paternity Affidavit is generally all that is necessary, interrogatories may be required
13)	Long-Arm Statute	Yes
14)	Assistance to Other States Using Their Long-Arm Statutes	
	• Service of Process	No
	Genetic Testing	No
15)	Recovery of Genetic Testing Costs for Other States	Yes

# E. SUPPORT ORDER ESTABLISHMENT

1)	Interstate Procedures	Standard URESA petition required for establishment of support order
2)	Income Considered for Setting Support	Gross income/assets (award is based on a flat percentage of net income as defined by state; gross income is needed to make this calculation
3)	Criteria for Rebuttal	Cost of providing health insurance for child; time spent with A/P; extraordinary educational or medical expenses; any other extraordinary expenses for child could justify additional support; foster care; extraordinary net income of obligor
4)	Support Order for Prior Periods	Yes; to date of birth

#### F. ENFORCEMENT

(Note: If multiple orders, see Part "G")

#### I. ENFORCING YOUR OWN ORDER

1)	Enforcement for Non-Resident Family	Yes
2)	Administrative Procedures and Remedies Available	No; order must be registered and heard by Judge or Referee
3)	Judicial Procedures and Remedies Available with Registration	Yes

#### II. ENFORCING OTHER STATES' ORDERS

4)	Administrative Procedures and Remedies Available Without Registration	No; orders must be registered
5)	Judicial/Administrative Remedies with Registration	No
6)	UIFSA/URESA Registration and Enforcement Procedure	Standard URESA procedures
7)	Judicial Procedures Required after Registration	Standard URESA procedures
8)	Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act Citation	No applicableTN is a URESA State

### G. MODIFICATION/REVIEW & ADJUSTMENT OF ORDERS

1)	Jurisdiction Requirements	Standard URESA law
2)	<b>Modification Procedures</b>	When there is a significant variance as defined in Guidelines between guidelines and amount of support ordered
3)	Criteria for Modification	At least 15% or \$15.00 per month
4)	Criteria for Change of Circumstances	Drastic change of circumstances
5)	Frequency With Which Reviews are Conducted	Every 3 years
6)	Criteria for Review	Completed FS-200, copy of letter from requester requesting review in non-assigned cases, financial affidavit of requesting party in non-assigned cases or FSA-202 on assigned cases, additional information as requested. Order must be a valid TN support order; 3 years must have elapsed since the entry of the child support order or the most recent filing of a petition to modify the order; the obligor's location is known; material change of circumstances must not be voluntary or temporary
7)	Criteria for Adjustment	See "Criteria for Review"

# H. MULTIPLE ORDERS

### ENFORCEMENT AND MODIFICATION

1)	Controlling Order	Most recently entered order
2)	<b>Date of Controlling Order</b>	Date order was entered
3)	If No Controlling Order	Establishment necessary
4)	Arrears Procedure	Arrears are modifiable

# I. Documentation Required to Initiate Requests

ACTION REQUESTED	DOCUMENTS NEEDED	# of Copies of each docum ent	Certifica tion required for each documen t *See below
Establishment of Paternity and Support	Full URESA and Paternity Affidavit	3	A or B
Enforcement of Responding State's Order	Enforcement Transmittal, court order, and arrears affidavit	3	A or B
Modification of Responding States' Orders	Enforcement Transmittal, change of circumstances statement, income and expense affidavit, copy of support order	3	A or B
Administrative Enforcement of Another States' Order	Not Available		
Registration for Enforcement of Another States' Order	Enforcement Transmittal, Certified copy of order, Statement of Fact or Petition of Registration, URESA Laws, Monthly Arrears Statement	3	A or B
Collection of Arrearages in Multiple Orders	Enforcement Transmittal, Judgment orders	3	A or B
Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act	Enforcement Transmittal, Judgment Orders	3	A or B
Modification of Another State's Order	Standard Full URESA Package	3	A or B
Status Update on an Existing Interstate Case	General request for status in letter form	1	Е
Assistance/Discovery	Enforcement Transmittal, support order, arrears affidavit, wage withholding laws	3	A or B
Quick Locate	Standard URESA Form	1	Е

<sup>\*</sup>A = Notarization by Notary Public; B = Certification by signature of agency official;

C= Certification by signature of court official; D= Others (please specify);

E= Certification not required

# J. State Contact Chart

ASSISTANCE NEEDED	CONTACT
	Name, Title, Address, Phone, Fax, E-mail (include 800 if applicable)
State Information Agent	Joyce D. McClaran, Director, TN Dept. Of Human Services, 400 Deaderick Street, 12th Floor, Nashville, TN 37248-7400
	(615) 313-4880, Fax (615) 532-2791
Central Registry	Connie S. Putman, Program Specialist III, TN Dept. Of Human Services, 400 Deaderick Street, 12th Floor, Nashville, TN 37248-7400
	(615) 313-5653, Fax (615) 532-2791
Interstate Policy Contact (if different)	Connie S. Putman
Contact for Information Regarding Your States Long Arm Statute and Process	Secretary of State, (615) 741-2810, Tennessee State Capitol
Contact for Information Regarding Collection and Distribution (State level)	Connie S. Putman
Contact to Obtain Payment Records	Refer to Local Jurisdictions
Contact to Obtain Copy of Order	Refer to Local Jurisdictions
Contact for States Using Their Long Arm Statutes or Continuing Exclusive Jurisdiction (no "case" in your State) for	
Service of Process	Secretary of State, (615) 741-2810, Tennessee State Capital
(private process server? If so , list)	
Genetic Testing	Not Available
( e.g. assistance with interstate	
teleconferencing)	
New Hire Reporting Contact	Connie S. Putman
Employer Assistance Contact	Juanita Herrin, TN Dept. of Human Services, 400 Deaderick Street,12th Floor, Nashville, TN 37248-7400, 1-800-446-0814, Fax (615) 532-2791
Telephone Number for Automated Interstate Case <i>Status</i> Requests	Not Available
(if any)	
Telephone Number for Automated Interstate Case <i>Payment</i> Requests	Not Available

(if any)	
Privatization Contact	William H. Duffey, Program Manager, 400 Deaderick Street, 12th Floor, Nashville, TN 37248-7400, (615) 313-4880, Fax (615) 532-2791